Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The NPT expressly recognizes, in its Article IV, “the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty” to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The great contributions that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy make to humankind, in areas such as medicine, public health, agriculture, new materials, food security, water resources, sustainable energy and the environment cannot be overstated.

The multiple applications of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes provide the means for social and economic development, and the well-being of entire populations in different regions of the planet. For the benefit of humankind, this right, that predates the NPT, must remain accordingly protected and enforced.

It is therefore essential that all States have unimpeded access to nuclear goods and technology for peaceful purposes. In the nuclear policy Brazil adopted in 2018, these areas were particularly highlighted.

Article IV of the NPT also determines that States in a position to do so shall cooperate in the development of the applications of nuclear energy, “especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty”, taking into consideration the different levels of regional development. In this sense it is not only a moral imperative, but also a legally binding commitment undertaken by Parties to the NPT to engage in cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil notes with appreciation that the IAEA, building on its expertise, has played a critical role in the promotion of the peaceful uses of the atom and international cooperation,
through initiatives carried out under the mandate “Atoms for Peace and Development”. As these technologies become more widely available, we witness an increase in the number of countries making use of nuclear energy, research reactor and other civil applications. Therefore, it is important that the IAEA’s technical cooperation branch be awarded the adequate support and resources it requires to continue and expand this kind of cooperation.

In recent years, the international community has engaged, both within the IAEA and in other frameworks, in initiatives related to nuclear safety and security. Brazil has actively participated in the IAEA Conferences and in the Nuclear Security Summits, and it develops and implements robust, effective and adequate legislation in these areas.

Brazil is fully committed to the safe and secure use of nuclear technology and is ready to engage constructively in the next IAEA Conference on the subject. The strengthening of international commitments in these areas must serve the purpose of providing a stable environment, which facilitates cooperation and the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, by preventing risks and threats that may result from the inappropriate or non-authorized use of nuclear energy under the NPT and, in a broader sense, international law.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil is of the view that it is impossible to dissociate nuclear non-proliferation, including the quest for nuclear security, from the effective implementation of disarmament commitments. Recalling the final document of the SSOD-I, a world that accepts nuclear weapons will always be insecure.

To conclude, Mr. Chair, Brazil welcomes an approach for the 2020 Review Conference that underscores the relevance of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. We cannot lose sight, however, that the three pillars underpinning the NPT are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, which means that all Parties must meet their obligations within the international community’s broader efforts to promote the inter-related goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Thank you.